

**Fishery Management Plan for the Commercial Tanner
Crab Fishery in the Kodiak District of Registration
Area J, 2009**

by

Nicholas H. Sagalkin

December 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	mideye to fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted		mideye to tail fork	METF
hectare	ha	abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg			total length	TL
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted			
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	Mathematics, statistics	
meter	m			<i>all standard mathematical</i>	
milliliter	mL	at	@	<i>signs, symbols and</i>	
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		<i>abbreviations</i>	
		east	E	alternate hypothesis	H _A
Weights and measures (English)		north	N	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	catch per unit effort	CPUE
foot	ft	west	W	coefficient of variation	CV
gallon	gal	copyright	©	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		confidence interval	CI
mile	mi	Company	Co.	correlation coefficient	
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	(multiple)	R
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	correlation coefficient	
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	(simple)	r
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	covariance	cov
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	degree (angular)	°
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	degrees of freedom	df
Time and temperature		exempli gratia		expected value	<i>E</i>
day	d	(for example)	e.g.	greater than	>
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information		greater than or equal to	≥
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	Code	FIC	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
degrees kelvin	K	id est (that is)	i.e.	less than	<
hour	h	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	less than or equal to	≤
minute	min	monetary symbols		logarithm (natural)	ln
second	s	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	logarithm (base 10)	log
		months (tables and		logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
Physics and chemistry		figures): first three		minute (angular)	'
all atomic symbols		letters	Jan.,...,Dec	not significant	NS
alternating current	AC	registered trademark	®	null hypothesis	H ₀
ampere	A	trademark	™	percent	%
calorie	cal	United States		probability	P
direct current	DC	(adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type I error	
hertz	Hz	United States of		(rejection of the null	
horsepower	hp	America (noun)	USA	hypothesis when true)	α
hydrogen ion activity	pH	U.S.C.	United States	probability of a type II error	
(negative log of)			Code	(acceptance of the null	
parts per million	ppm	U.S. state	use two-letter	hypothesis when false)	β
parts per thousand	ppt,		abbreviations	second (angular)	"
	‰		(e.g., AK, WA)	standard deviation	SD
volts	V			standard error	SE
watts	W			variance	
				population	Var
				sample	var

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 08-67

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CRAB FISHERY IN THE KODIAK DISTRICT
OF REGISTRATION AREA J, 2009**

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December 2008

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This document should be cited as:

Sagalkin, N. H. 2009. Fishery management plan for the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J, 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 08-67, Anchorage.

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ABSTRACT

Two sections of the Kodiak District are scheduled to open for a commercial Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* fishery on January 15, 2009. The opening date may be delayed due to severe weather under criteria established in regulation. The Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery is a limited entry fishery regulated by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are established by section: 100,000 pounds for the Northeast Section and 300,000 pounds for the Eastside Section. The total Kodiak District GHL is 400,000 pounds, and vessels are limited to 20 pots. In the Northeast Section, Chiniak Bay will remain closed. In the Eastside Section, Ugak and Kiliuda Bays will remain closed. Post-recruit crabs are expected to predominate the harvest from the Eastside Section.

Key words: Tanner crab, *Chionoecetes bairdi*, Kodiak District, Area J, harvest strategy, regulations

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Kodiak Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* District includes the waters of Registration Area J south of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58° 51.10' N lat.), west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148° 50.25' W long.) and east of the longitude of Cape Kumlik (157° 27' W long.). The district is subdivided into eight sections: Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, Southwest, Semidi Island Overlap, Westside, North Mainland, and South Mainland (Figure 1). Sections are described in 5 AAC 35.505 DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRATION AREA J DISTRICTS on pages 144 of the 2008-2011 Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fishing Regulations. Only the Northeast and Eastside sections will be open during the 2009 season (Figures 1 and 2).

In the Northeast Section, state waters will be closed from Cape Chiniak to the latitude of Miller Point during the 2009 commercial Tanner crab fishery (Figure 2). In the Eastside Section, Ugak Bay will be closed inside a line from Pasagshak Point (57° 25.457 N; 152° 29.353W) to Gull Point (57° 23.072 N; 152° 36.221 W), and Kiliuda Bay will be closed inside a line from Left Cape (57° 15.619 N; 152° 56.507 W) to Inner Right Cape (57° 16.438 N; 152° 51.623 W).

OVERVIEW

The Kodiak District Tanner crab commercial fishery began in 1967. Commercial harvest peaked in the 1977/78 season when over 33 million pounds were harvested from the district.

In the late 1980s, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) began a trawl survey to obtain relative abundance estimates and predict future recruitment trends of Tanner crabs around Kodiak. Prior to this time, pot surveys were used for stock assessment (Urban et al. 1999).

Declines in the harvestable surplus of Tanner crabs in the Kodiak District through the 1980s led to decreased quotas and closures of some sections to commercial fishing. By 1995, commercial fisheries were closed in all Kodiak sections due to reduced stock abundance. Closures continued through the 1990s, even though some increases in stock size were noted late in the decade.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted a comprehensive harvest strategy in 1999 for management of Tanner crabs in the Kodiak District. Under this strategy, a commercial Tanner crab fishery may occur when 1) preseason trawl survey abundance estimates meet or exceed established thresholds; 2) two or more sections, excluding the South Mainland and Semidi Island Overlap sections, are opened; 3) the guideline harvest level (GHL) in an open section is at least 100,000 pounds; and 4) abundance is sufficient to provide a total district harvest of at least 400,000 pounds (Urban et al. 1999).

RECENT FISHERIES

2006/2007 Fishery

Only the Northeast and Eastside sections met the required criteria for a commercial opening in 2007. The total district GHLL was 800,000 pounds with 100,000 pounds available in the Northeast Section and 700,000 pounds in the Eastside Section (Table 1). Total harvest from the 2007 Kodiak District fishery was 765,092 pounds from 94 landings made on 54 unique vessels. The weather delay criteria described in 5 AAC 35.510 (a) was not met. Tank inspections for the 2007 commercial Tanner crab fishery began as scheduled at noon, January 14, and the fishery opened in the Northeast and Eastside Sections at noon on January 15, 2007. The Chiniak Bay portion of the Northeast Section closed January 22 at 6:00 PM. The Eastside Section closed by emergency order at NOON on January 26. The remainder of the Northeast Section closed January 28 at 6:00 pm.

2007/2008 Fishery

The Northeast and Eastside sections met the required criteria for a commercial opening in 2008. The total district GHLL was 500,000 pounds with 100,000 pounds available in the Northeast Section and 400,000 pounds in the Eastside Section (Table 1). Total harvest from the 2008 Kodiak District fishery was 425,353 pounds from 61 landings made on 34 unique vessels. The season was delayed by one day based on the weather delay criteria described in 5 AAC 35.510 (a). Tank inspections for the 2008 commercial Tanner crab fishery began at noon, January 15, and the fishery opened in the Northeast and Eastside Sections at noon on January 16, 2008. The Chiniak Bay portion of the Northeast District was not opened. The Ugak Bay portion of the Eastside Section closed January 19 at 2:00 PM. The remainder of the Eastside Section closed by emergency order at 5:59 PM on January 20. The Inner Marmot Bay portion of the Northeast Section closed at 5:59 PM on January 29. The remainder of Marmot Bay closed February 4 at 3:00 PM. The remaining waters of the Northeast Section were open until the regulatory closure of March 31.

Table 1.—Kodiak District Tanner crab guideline harvest levels and harvest in pounds.

Season	Guideline Harvest Level	Harvest
2000/01	500,000	510,407
2001/02	500,000	361,166
2002/03	510,000	511,324
2003/04	795,000	566,218
2004/05	1,750,000	1,800,196
2005/06	2,100,000	2,121,384
2006/07	800,000	765,092
2007/08	500,000	425,353

2009 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

GHLs are established by section in the 2009 Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab season:

<i>Section</i>	<i>2009 Guideline Harvest Level (pounds)</i>
Northeast	100,000
Eastside	300,000
Total Kodiak District	400,000

NOTABLE REGULATION CHANGES

Some of the regulations regarding Tanner crab fishing that have changed as a result of BOF actions in 1999, 2002, and 2005 are as follows:

- The Kodiak District is a superexclusive registration district for Tanner crabs, 5 AAC 35.506 AREA J REGISTRATION (a). A vessel validly registered for a superexclusive registration area may not be used to take Tanner crab in any other registration area during that registration year, 5 AAC 35.005 (c). A vessel is considered registered for the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery once the vessel has had a tank inspection, 5 AAC 35.020 (e & f); a valid registration does not require actual fishery participation or landing.
 - A vessel operator that registers for the 2009 Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery may not operate any other Tanner crab vessel registered for any other superexclusive registration area within the same registration year, 5 AAC 35.020 (h). The Tanner crab registration year is August 1-July 31, 5 AAC 35.020 (c).
- Vessels must be registered for a specific section in the Kodiak District 5 AAC 35.506 AREA J REGISTRATION (h). A vessel operator may only be registered to fish one section at a time. Participants will be required to specify on their registration the section they will begin fishing in the 2009 fishery. Permit holders may change this section registration at any time by contacting ADF&G by phone, FAX, dispatch, or in person, prior to changing sections.

For additional information on these and other Tanner crab regulations, contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak and refer to the shellfish regulations (available at ADF&G offices or at our website: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/>).

FISHING PERIODS

Pot gear may only be operated from 8:00 AM to 5:59 PM. Operation of gear, which includes setting or retrieving pots, is prohibited from 6:00 PM to 7:59 AM. Based on the department's assessment of effort in the district, manageability, and harvest rate, daily fishing periods may be increased by emergency order. Fishing periods will likely NOT increase until late in the season when effort has substantially decreased.

POT LIMITS AND BUOY TAGS

Kodiak District pot limits are based upon the GHL:

<u>Guideline Harvest Level Range</u>	<u>Pot limit</u>
Less than 2,000,000 pounds	20 pots per vessel
2,000,000 to less than 4,000,000 pounds	30 pots per vessel
4,000,000 to less than 5,000,000 pounds	40 pots per vessel
5,000,000 pounds or greater	50 pots per vessel

The pot limit for the 2009 Kodiak District fishery will be 20 pots per vessel. To ensure compliance with pot limit regulations, the main or trailer buoy on each pot must display one fishery-specific identification tag issued by the department for the current year. More information on buoy tags can be found under 5 AAC 35.526 TANNER CRAB POT MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J on page 155 of the shellfish regulations.

Tags will be available beginning in mid-December. A valid 2009 Tanner crab CFEC permit card (TB9AK or TB9BK) is required to purchase tags. Participants from areas outside the city of Kodiak can purchase tags via U.S. Mail until December 31. No tags will be mailed after this date; contact ADF&G in Kodiak for details (907) 486-1840.

If tags are lost, replacement tags are available. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete an affidavit form describing how the tags were lost and supply the unique number(s) of each lost tag.

Pots with lost tags must be secured open with the bait removed until replacement tags are obtained. Vessels must contact Alaska State Troopers, Division of Wildlife Protection (Appendix A) to inform them of the situation.

GEAR

Gear for the commercial Tanner crab fishery is limited to pots no more than 10 feet long by 10 feet wide by 42 inches high with rigid tunnel eye openings that are less than five inches in height. Tunnel eye opening perimeters must be individually more than 36 inches. Ring nets are not a legal gear type in the Kodiak District. The specific language regarding legal pot dimensions can be found under 5 AAC 35.050 LAWFUL GEAR FOR TANNER CRAB on page 128 of the shellfish regulations.

Escape mesh or escape ring requirements are included in the regulations for legal Tanner gear. Each pot used to take Tanner crab must have at least one third of one vertical surface of the pot composed of not less than 7-1/4 inch stretched mesh webbing or have no less than four circular escape rings which have an inside diameter of at least five inches. If using rings, they must be installed on the vertical plane of the pot to allow for escapement of undersized crabs. The rings are not required to be placed near the bottom of the pot as they are in some Bering Sea fisheries. However, ADF&G recommends placing rings within one mesh of the bottom of the pot to optimize escapement of undersized crabs. The specific language on escape device requirements is described in 5 AAC 35.525 LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA J on page 154 of the shellfish regulations.

All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145 ESCAPE MECHANISM FOR SHELLFISH AND BOTTOMFISH POTS on page 59 of the shellfish regulations. An opening 18 inches or greater in length that is placed within six inches of the bottom of the pot must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 30 thread.

Buoys attached to pots must comply with 5 AAC 35.051 TANNER CRAB GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS listed on page 128 and 5 AAC 35.526 TANNER CRAB GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS AREA J on page 155 of the shellfish regulations. The buoy that contains the ADF&G number marking may not be marked with additional numbers; however, other symbols and letters are acceptable on the buoy. Trailer or other buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

The use of converted pots as ‘storage boxes’ to store crabs in the water for vessels registered as dry tanked vessels is not permitted unless crab storage devices are attached to the vessel at all time.

Operation of Other Pot Gear, Pot Storage, and Landing Requirements

There is a 14-day stand down period for the operation of pot gear before the commercial Tanner crab fishery opening in the Kodiak District. No person or vessel that will participate in the commercial Tanner crab fishery may operate commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots for any species within the district during that 14-day period (5 AAC 35.053 OPERATION OF OTHER POT GEAR).

Legally outfitted pots with buoy tags attached *may be* placed into shallow water storage during the 14-day stand down period. However, vessels may not retrieve gear already in legal storage to put tags on gear during the 14-day stand down period. In addition, vessels **will not** be allowed to retrieve gear before the fishery opening, after the tank inspection, due to enforcement concerns. There would be no way to distinguish a vessel retrieving gear from storage and a vessel fishing before the opening. Only after the fishery opens will vessels be allowed to retrieve pots from storage. At the time of registration (tank inspection), all gear onboard and in the water must have buoy tags affixed to be in compliance.

Up to 20 cone or pyramid pots may be stored for up to 30 days before the season in waters of 25 fathoms or less with all bait and bait containers removed and doors not secured closed. Pots other than cone or pyramid, may be stored longer than 30 days before the season in waters less than 25 fathoms if bait and bait containers are removed and doors are secured open. No vessel may have more than the specified pot limit onboard or in wet storage in the registration district (all waters from Cape Douglas to Kilokak Rocks) while the vessel is validly registered. The regulatory language concerning pot storage can be found at 5 AAC 35.527 TANNER CRAB POT STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AREA J on page 156 of the shellfish regulations.

After the closure of the Tanner crab season, vessels wishing to participate in the Pacific cod fishery must either place pots into shallow-water storage or on land and register with ADF&G for the Pacific cod fishery. Additional stipulations on the operation of other pot gear within the Kodiak District can be found under 5 AAC 35.053 OPERATION OF OTHER POT GEAR on page 129 of shellfish regulations.

Delivery requirements, post-closure pot storage requirements, and re-registration requirements vary depending on the type of area closure and the amount of notice given. The following is a

summary of closure scenarios, subsequent pot-storage options, delivery requirements, and re-registration requirements contained in 5 AAC 35.031, 5 AAC 35.052, 5 AAC 35.527, and 5 AAC 35.556:

Closure of an entire section with 6 or more hours notice. By regulation, ADF&G may require all vessel operators within a section that is closed to deliver all catch from the section within 24 hours of the closure. Unbaited gear with doors secured open may be stored in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours following the closure. After 72 hours, all gear remaining in the closed section must be removed or stored in waters shallower than 25 fathoms. Gear may remain in shallow water storage for up to 30 days after the closure of the entire Kodiak District. While in transit from the closed area, vessel operators may contact ADF&G and re-register for an open section. This will permit vessels to legally place baited gear, once validly registered, in the waters of the open section provided the 24-hour delivery deadline is met.

Closure of an entire section with less than 6 hours advance notice. Vessel operators, within a section that is closed, are required to proceed directly to port at the time of the closure and deliver within 24 hours. Vessel operators may not place gear in storage, retrieve pots from storage, or place gear in an open section until they have completed their delivery of crabs from the closed section. Vessel operators are required to immediately return to the fishing grounds after their delivery to 'rail dump' all crab from baited gear left on the grounds. Vessel operators with baited gear may only store baited pots in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours following the closure. Vessel operators may re-register for an open section after completing their delivery and removing any baited gear from the grounds. A tank inspection will be required before vessels may register for an open section.

Partial closure of a fishing section with 6 or more hours notice. Vessel operators within the section, regardless of their location within the section, are required to deliver all crabs from the section within 24 hours of the closure. Any changes to the delivery requirement would be provided in a news release at the time of the closure announcement. Vessel operators may store pots in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours in the closed waters of the section. Vessel operators may place, or simultaneously have, baited gear in the open waters of the same section before delivery provided the 24-hour delivery deadline is met.

Partial closure of a fishing section with less than 6 hours notice. This scenario is highly unlikely. Should this type of closure occur the landing, pot storage, and re-registration requirements would be provided in a news release.

Closure of the entire Kodiak District with 6 or more hours notice. Vessel operators are required to deliver all crabs within 24 hours of the closure. Vessel operators may store pots with bait and bait containers removed and doors secured open in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for up to 7 days following the closure. Cone and pyramid pots may be stored with bait and bait containers removed and doors not secured closed in waters shallower than 25 fathoms for 30 days after the closure; rectangular pots may be stored longer.

Closure of the entire Kodiak District with less than 6 hours notice. Vessel operators are required to deliver within 24 hours. After the closure, vessel operators may not place gear in or remove gear from storage until they have completed their delivery of crabs. Baited gear may be stored in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours following the closure. Vessel operators are required to immediately return to the fishing grounds after their delivery to 'rail dump' any baited gear left on the grounds. Cone and pyramid pots may be stored with bait and bait containers removed

and doors not secured closed in waters shallower than 25 fathoms for 30 days after the closure; rectangular pots may be stored longer.

Vessel operators wishing to deliver to ports outside the district are required to contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak before leaving the district. Vessels delivering outside the district must provide the estimated number of crabs onboard the vessel at the time of the closure, location of port and processing facility, and estimated time of arrival. Additional requirements exist for catcher-processors and vessels mechanically disabled. Vessels legitimately delayed due to circumstances of weather will be addressed on a case by case basis. The specific regulation is 5 AAC 35.031 TANNER CRAB LANDING REQUIREMENTS and is on page 126 of the shellfish regulations.

REGISTRATION, TANK INSPECTIONS, VESSEL SIZE RESTRICTIONS, AND TENDERS

Vessel operators must have a 2009 permit card (TB9BK or TB9AK) for Kodiak District Tanner crab and a current 2009 commercial vessel license. Vessels that do not qualify for a CFEC permit may not participate in the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery; the fishery is no longer “open access”. Permits and vessel licenses can be obtained from the CFEC in Juneau. Vessel operators must register for a single section in the Kodiak District. Vessel operators may change their section registration by contacting the department by satellite phone or in person.

CFEC adopted two vessel size categories for the issuance of permits in the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery. Persons eligible to receive a permit will receive either a permit for a vessel with an overall length of less than 60 feet or a permit for a vessel of 60 to 120 feet in overall length. Persons receiving a permit for a ‘large vessel’ of 60 to 120 feet can use their permit on vessels smaller than 60 feet. A ‘large vessel’ permit card cannot be used on a vessel greater than 120 feet in overall length. Persons receiving a permit for ‘small vessels’ under 60 feet in overall length cannot make landings on a vessel 60 feet or longer in overall length.

Tender vessels must register with ADF&G before beginning tendering operations. Tender vessels may not have a pot-hauling block or other Tanner crab gear onboard nor may they be used to harvest Tanner crab.

Tank inspections are required for vessels with a circulating sea water system to confirm that no crabs are onboard the vessel prior to the fishery opening. Circulating sea water systems include on-deck containers with water circulated by pumps, hoses, or other means. Gear will also be inspected at the time of tank inspection to ensure it is in compliance with all gear regulations. Tanks will be inspected beginning at NOON on January 14 unless the fishery is delayed for severe weather (*see Fishery Opening Delay Due to Severe Weather*). Arrangements will be made to accommodate tank inspections in Old Harbor. Upon successful completion of the tank inspection and gear inspection process, a 2009 shellfish registration will be issued to the vessel. A copy of this registration must remain onboard the vessel while fishing. This registration becomes invalid 24 hours after the closure of the fishery.

SIZE LIMIT

The legal minimum size of Tanner crabs that can be harvested in the Kodiak District is 5.5 inches carapace width (CW). Only legal-size male Tanner crabs can be retained; all other crabs incidentally captured must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. This includes subsistence king crab, as they cannot be legally taken in a commercial Tanner crab fishery.

VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the Kodiak District commercial Tanner crab fishery from inseason catch reports provided by permit holders. Inseason management will allow for real-time fishery decisions and the ability to consider changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather. ADF&G will make every effort to allow sufficient time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for a short advance-notice closure.

Catch reports will be taken using satellite dispatch system, e-mail, or phone (e-mail and phone numbers are listed in the Appendix). **The ADF&G office uses Matrix¹ dispatch services; the office number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be issued a reporting worksheet during tag sales and/or tank inspection to participate in inseason reporting. Operators will be asked during the registration process which method they will use to submit daily reports.

Reports will initially be taken at 6:00 PM. The department may change the reporting schedule if effort declines later in the season.

Any closure announcement or change in the reporting schedule will be made on dispatch. Current fishery status will also be available on the ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-5176. Messages on the recorded message phone will be updated daily after the 8:30 AM update. Updates, changes to the reporting schedule, and closure announcements will be distributed via e-mail, FAX, and passed along to all participating processors.

INSEASON FISHERY MANAGEMENT

ADF&G may manage bays and offshore areas separately, closing one portion of a section while allowing continued harvest in other locations within the same section. The department will manage so that harvest within bays or localized areas does not exceed available harvest based on department survey results.

Given the distribution of Tanner crab estimated by the survey in the inside portion of the Northeast Section and Eastside Section, partial closures may occur after very little fishing time (possibly within the first full day of fishing).

Post-recruit crabs are expected to predominate the harvest from the Eastside Section. Fishery performance as measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) of legal crabs will be closely monitored. As the stocks within these management sections are still rebuilding, closures may occur before the total GHF is achieved if CPUE indicates the number of legal-sized animals has substantially declined or if excessive handling of sublegal and female crabs is occurring.

¹Use of trade names does not constitute an endorsement from ADF&G.

FISHERY OPENING DELAY DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER

The entire Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery will be delayed for 24 hours if gale force winds (35 knots or higher from any direction) are forecast to occur in the Northeast or Eastside Sections. The regulation was revised in 2005 to reflect changes in the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast format (5 AAC 35.510).

Under this regulation, if the NWS forecast issued at 4:00 AM on January 14 contains gale force winds (35 knots or higher from any direction) for the current day and night plus the following day and night in area 3B (NWS Area 132), the tank inspections and fishery opening will be delayed in **all** sections for 24 hours.

<u>Section</u>	<u>NWS Area</u>
Northeast	3B (132)
Eastside	3B (132)

If the following morning's 4:00 AM forecast contains gale warnings, the tank inspections and fishery opening would be delayed another 24 hours. The season opening may be delayed on a 24-hour rolling basis until January 24. If the fishery has not opened by January 24, tank inspections would occur at NOON that day and the fishery would open at NOON on January 25, regardless of any gale force warnings in the NWS forecast.

REFERENCES CITED

Urban, D., D. Pengilly, D. Jackson, and I. Vining. 1999. A Tanner crab harvest strategy for Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Peninsula Districts. A Report to the Board of Fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K99-21, Kodiak.

FIGURES

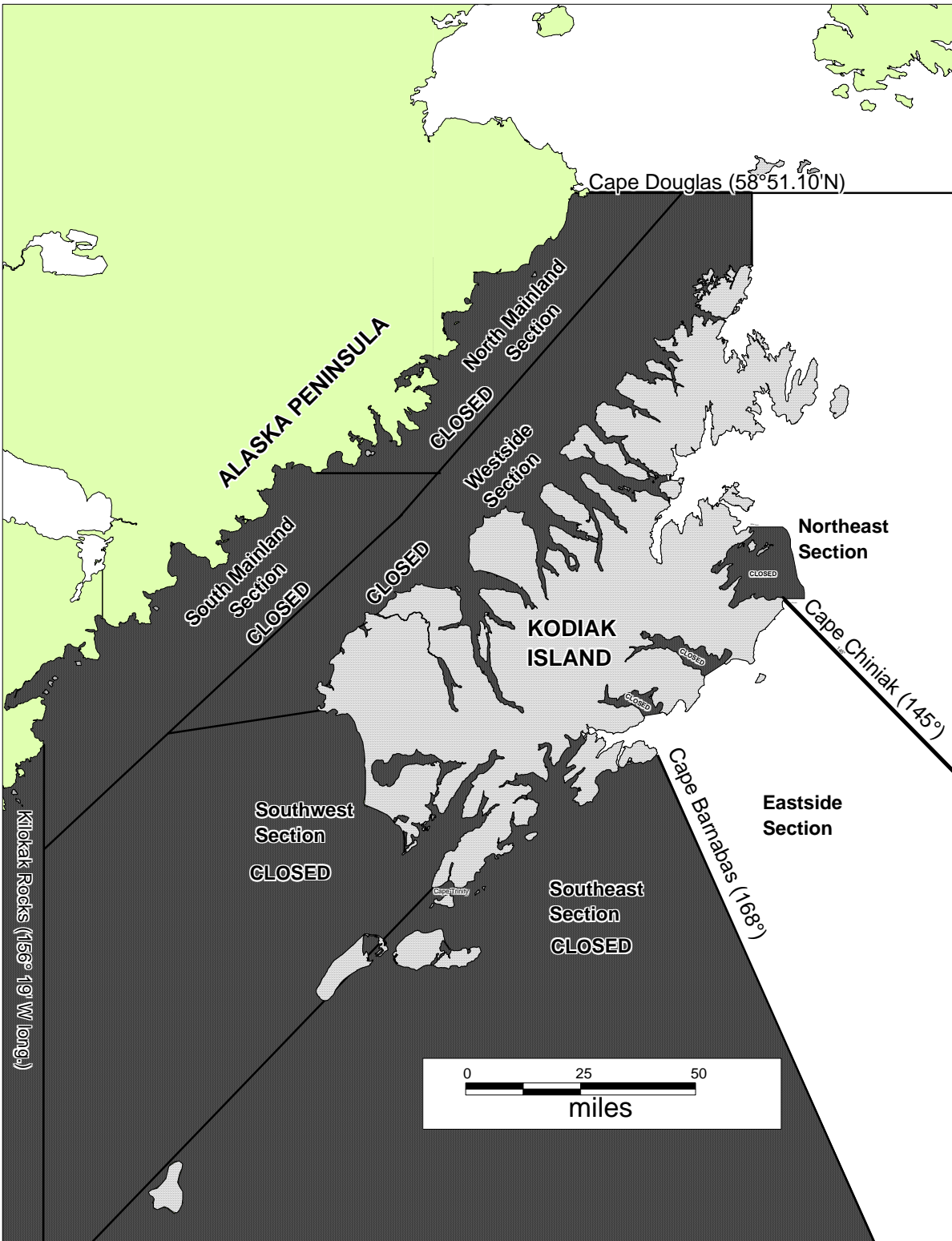


Figure 1.—Kodiak Tanner crab District and Sections, 2009.

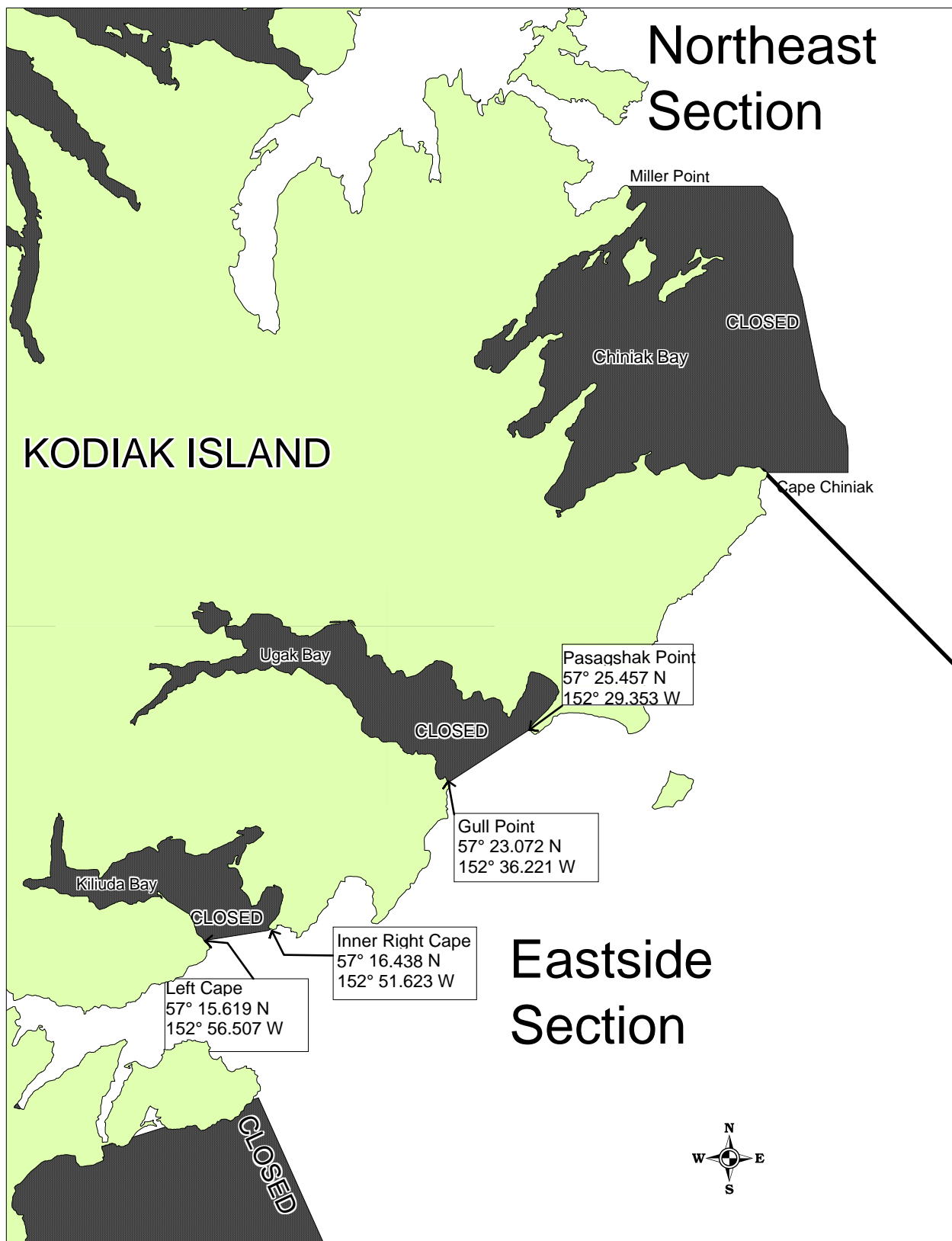


Figure 2.—Close-up of the Kodiak Tanner crab District depicting closed waters within the Eastside and Northeast sections for the 2009 season.

**APPENDIX: CONTACT PERSONS, AGENCIES,
AND PHONE NUMBERS**

Appendix A1.–Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/>

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Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection

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Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

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